

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Serial No. 09/871,248
Attorney Docket No. 010721

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 have been amended, claim 4 has been cancelled and new claim 6 has been added. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 28, 2005.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated Endo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,182).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention, a recording medium has a plurality of folders to store a plurality of image files to each of which a file number is assigned. A first pointer points any one of the plurality of folders formed in the recording medium as a record destination folder, a second pointer points any one of the plurality of folders formed in the recording medium as a reproducing destination folder, and a third pointer

points any one of the image files stored in the reproducing destination folder.

When a recording instruction is issued, a new image file accommodating photographed image data is written to the record destination folder by a writer. A first changer changes a point destination of the second pointer and a point destination of the third pointer to a point destination of the first pointer and the new image file, respectively, in association with a writing process of the writer.

Herein, the writer includes a detector and an assigner. The detector detects a maximum file number from among the file numbers which are assigned to the image files stored in the record destination folder. The assigner assigns a file number continuous from the maximum file number detected by the detector to the new image file.

Thus, when the writing process is carried out by the writer, the point destination of the second pointer is changed to the point destination of the first pointer, and the point destination of the third pointer is changed to the new image file. Consequently, it is not needed to carry out a folder designating operation and a file designating operation so as to reproduce the new image file after the writing process, and therefore, operability is improved.

Furthermore, the file number assigned to the new image file is a number continuous from the maximum file number out of the file numbers which are assigned to the image files stored in the record destination folder. That is, no file number belonging to a folder which is different from the record destination folder is referred for determining a file number to be assigned to the new image file.

Accordingly, it is possible to shorten a time period necessary for determining the file number to be assigned to the new image file and thus a time period necessary for the writing process, and therefore, it is possible to quickly confirm a photographed image. In this regard also, the operability is improved. Furthermore, it is possible to use successive file numbers for each of the folders, and therefore, the image files are easily or simply managed.

In contrast, Endo et al. disclose to record a moving picture file in a moving picture directory and record a still picture file in a still picture directory. However, file numbers are successive in a recording order without regard to a category of the file. Thereupon, taking notice of the moving picture files recorded in the moving picture directory, no succession of the file numbers is secured. Similarly, taking notice of the still picture files recorded in the still picture directory, no succession of the file numbers is secured.

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That is, Endo et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which detects a maximum file number from among the file numbers which are assigned to the image files in the record destination folder, and assigns a file number continuous from the detected maximum file number to the new image file.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

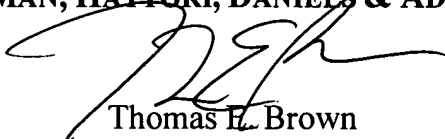
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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